IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Andrew M. Rudoff

Serial No.: NYA

Group Art Unit: NYA

Filed:

July 13, 2003

Examiner: NYA

For:

MECHANISM FOR REPLICATING AND

MAINTAINING FILES IN A SPACE-

EFFICIENT MANNER

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of the Specification:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/764,168, entitled MECHANISM FOR REPLICATING AND MAINTAINING FILES IN A SPACE-EFFICIENT MANNER, filed on January 16, 2001.